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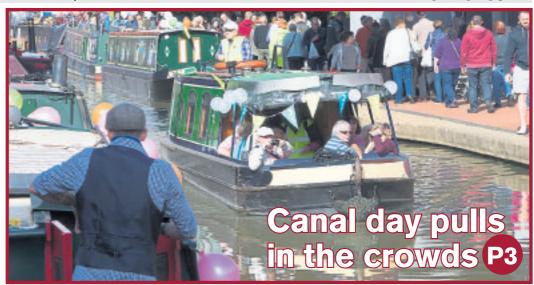
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GP SURGE

A GP surgery in Banbury with 18,000 patients on its books has insisted it will still be 'business as usual' despite a part-closure and ongoing staff shortages.
Partners at Horsefair Surgery told

patients this month that they had given notice to NHS England to terminate their contract to provide general medical services.

Since then negotiations have begun

with a private firm to alleviate the re-cruitment pressure and help with the running of the surgery.

A statement issued last week by the practice said: "Over the last two weeks we have been exploring the possibility of entering a partnership with a commercial company.

"Given that we have identified and are negotiating with a new provider, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has agreed that we can retain our contract and retract our notice.

"It will be business as usual at the surgery and there will be no break in the

on Monday, the Horsefair Surgery branch in Middleton Cheney closed its doors and was placed on the market.

A volunteer driver from a firm called Helping Hand has been recruited to transport patients from Middleton Hannah Somerville hsomerville@nqo.com

Cheney to the Banbury practice. The move follows months of unsuccessful efforts to recruit GPs after several partners left due to retirement or ill health.

Bill MacKeith, secretary of Keep our NHS public in Oxford, said: "What has happened with the consultant-led maternity services at the Horton Hospital is that they have been temporarily closed because they have not been able

to recruit consultants.

"When they had their board of directors meeting they said they would continue to try to recruit consultants which means they could not have been trying very hard.

'I cannot help but think something similar is going on here."

In a report seen by Oxfordshire Clin-

ical Commissioning Group last week, Dr Paul Park, who chairs the North Oxfordshire Locality Group and is also a partner at Hightown Surgery, said three out of six practices in Ban-bury have now declared themselves as vulnerable to closure.

He said the issues were "mainly due to recruitment and resourcing con-cerns", adding: "This is a great con-

cern for the locality.

to hear about the closure and added: "All of us in North Oxfordshire are facing serious healthcare challenges, not least of all the loss of our consultant-led maternity service at the Horton Gener al Hospital.

"The closure of well-used GP surgeries, such as Horsefair and North Bicester, is very worrying for patients. I am doing everything I can to make sure that all my constituents have access to

high-quality healthcare.
"I will be meeting with David Smith, chief executive of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, later on this week, and primary care and our local hospital will be at the top of my



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Appalling waits for check-ups

HUNDREDS of children are still facing 'appalling' waits for access to child and adult mental health services (CAMHS) in Oxfordshire, health bosses have heard.

A report seen by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group last week noted that in August just 41 per cent of young people had their first routine appointment within 12 weeks of referral, against a target of 75 per cent. It was up from 30 per cent in July, when a total of 504 were recorded as having been waiting longer than 12 weeks.

Services are currently provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and a new contract starting in May next year will

The trust does not perform worse than others in the UK in terms of waiting times but will need to prove it can transform services to address access issues and long

The report stated: "There was an improvement in CAMHS performance both in terms of improved waiting times and decreased number of long waiters.

"However improvement is slow and the

improvement plan agreed with the trust continues to be monitored monthly."

Delays are mainly down to recruitment problems, with the number of vacant whole-time equivalent posts rising from nine in July to 12.4 in August.

Young people waiting for more than four months have a phone call to reassess risk and check non-medical factors such as whether they are going to school.
OCCG chairman Joe McManners said:

"The number is pretty appalling. The target is within 12 weeks, which is a long time for a seven- or eight-year-old.
"We will have some financial incentives

in 2017 with the new contract so that hopefully outcomes will improve."

Childminder 'good'

A CHILDMINDER from Banbury has once again been rated good by Ofsted. Jemma Bridge, who looks after seven youngsters aged from one to seven, was deemed by the education standards watchdog to be good in all areas.

Inspectors visited on September 8 and, in an inspection report released on Wednesday, praised Ms Bridge.

She was said to supplement the interesting range of toys and resources to extend children's learning and to "skilfully capture children's imagination'

The report noted she built on children's emotional well-being successfully and that children enjoyed spending time with her.

Race against time to find doctors as concern grows

Horton's maternity service downgrade begins as more specialist staff are sought

Hannah Somerville

ALL eyes were on the Horton General Hospital this week as its maternity service closed its doors to all but low-risk expectant mothers from across Oxfordshire.

The temporary move was brought about by chronic under-staffing at the Banbury unit and the first baby was delivered at the new midwife-led unit (MLU) on Monday.

Last week campaigners were left bitterly disappointed as Oxfordshire County Council's health overview and scrutiny committee decided not to refer the matter to the Secretary of State, voting five to three that enough evidence for the move had been provided by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
Keith Strangwood, chairman of

the Keep the Horton General campaign group, said: "I am at a loss for words. I'm shocked at the deci-

'I would like to remind those on this committee that next May their seats are up for election and we could have a dead baby as early as next week.

At present just three out of eight obstetric posts are filled at the Horton, with those consultants, and equipment, moving to the John Radcliffe for the time being.

Four more doctors have been offered posts and have accepted, but Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust now faces a race against time to register them all with the General Medical Council, hold induction periods at the JR and organise a visa for an overseas doctor if it wants to fully re-open the unit at the Horton by January. Meanwhile midwives at the unit

have submitted a formal grievance



MP Victoria Prentis addresses the protestors at a rally in July to save the maternity services

at the trust's handling of the issue via the GMB union, based on what they say was a lack of "genuine' consultation.

Mark Power, director of work-force at OUH, said plans had been discussed with unit staff as soon as it became clear changes would need to be made at the Horton. He said: "Our consultation with staff took place before the final decision was made to temporarily suspend the service on safety grounds.

"Since it is anticipated that the changes will mean a number of women will need to give birth at the John Radcliffe Hospital, some staff currently based at the Horton are required to move with the service to work instead from Oxford.
"Contracts of employment at Ox-

ford University Hospitals provide for employees to vary their place

of work within the trust.
"Through our discussions with staff we have tried to accommodate individuals' wishes and preferences, but acknowledge that this has not been fully possible in all cases. As the changes at the Horton maternity unit are of a temporary nature, special arrangements have been made to support those staff needing to travel to Oxford."

MP Victoria Prentis said she has approached nearby businesses, authorities and schools to put together a package that can be offered to interested applicants for the obstetric positions at the Horton.

She said the proposals so far include help with housing, clothing, beer, and potentially discounts on fees from local independent schools. It is hoped that offering an attractive package to prospective obstetric doctors, and assisting a potential relocation to the Ban-bury area, will encourage applicants to take up job offers to work



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Bubbly boaters from far and wide enjoy canal day

Crowds enjoy fairground rides, entertainment, food and drink at watery annual celebration

Georgina Campbell gcampbell@nqo.com

BANBURY'S waterways teeming with boats and bubbles for the 13th annual Canal Day.

Boaters from near and far flocked to the event on Sunday, which saw the Mill Arts Centre open its doors for a

day of entertainment, food and drink. Sitting in a giant duck, Caroline Watsham said she came every year but found this year's bubble theme particularly challenging when thinking about decorating her boat Scyeffe.

The 51-year-old, who has lived on her boat for 20 years, said: "We were really struggling to think of how we would do up the boat this year. Last year it was rainbows, which was certainly a lot

"Then my youngest daughter suggested we turn it into a giant bubble bath. So we made a rubber duck out of wood and then my oldest daughter spent all morning blowing up 150 balloons.

"It is really great fun and in such a beautiful part of the county."

As her narrowboat passed through the canal, Ms Watsham had a bucket to collect money for Banbury's Horton General Hospital, ahead of the closure

of its maternity services this week.

She added: "I feel really passionate about the hospital and it does not make any sense why they would be downgrading it, making it smaller when

Banbury is just getting bigger.
"This is me trying to do my bit and people have been throwing in change throughout the day, which is excellent."

General Foods Garden hosted a free folk concert and there was a chance for residents to watch a blacksmith work.

Hook Norton Brewery kept the ale flowing and the hunger at bay and there were a variety of traders, falconry displays and fairground rides for

people to enjoy.
Shelia Wilson-Smith said this was the first time she and her partner Jim Smith had come to the event on their boat Islonian.

The couple operate a business, Roversafloat, from their boat, selling fla-

voured ground coffees and teas.

Mrs Wilson-Smith said: "We were looking for something to finish the season off with.

'We have done one of two shows throughout the year and we have always really enjoyed them, so we thought we would give this one a try.
"It has been a really lovely day so far

and I would definitely come back next

The annual event is organised by Banbury Town Council.



Above, Peter Cole, who downsized to something a bit smaller; below, Caroline Watsham performs from a rubber duck mounted on her narrowboat's roof; bottom, Jim Smith and Sheila Wilson-Smith in their boat; traditional canal crafts and Mayor Gordon Ross arrives by boat to open the event









No ID for body

POLICE are yet to confirm the identity of a body found near Banbury. Officers combed through woodland

in Tadmarton on Friday and made the discovery, thought to be the body of

Jack Abell, spokesman for Thames
Valley Police, yesterday said that
formal identification has not yet been carried out by the coroner.

Mr Standing went missing a week ago on Sunday, prompting his partner to issue a plea for him to return

The death is not being treated as

Adoption talk

ADULTS can learn about adoption at an information evening in Banbury. Prospective parents can stop by at Grimsbury Community Centre, where agency Adoption Focus will put on an

informal presentation and chat.
The event on Wednesday, October 19, from 6pm to 8pm, will look at the adoption process and support for future mums and dads.

Social workers will be available for one-to-one talks. Email info@adoptionfocus.org.uk to book a place.

Event gees up

A QUIRKY annual event will bring an abundance of costumed characters into Banbury.

The town's Hobby Horse Festival will turn the clock back to medieval times, when jousters and jesters roamed the

The event, part of Banbury Folk Festival, will run from Friday until Sunday and will feature people wearing horse costumes and period clothing. Morris sides will also perform as part of the wider festival, as well as folk musicians.

For timings and locations visit banburyfolkfestival.co.uk



Village's neighbourhood plan will be put to referendum vote

A DATE has been set for people living in Bloxham to vote on a framework for future planning in the area

On Thursday, November 3 a referendum will be held in the village on the parish's new Neighbourhood Plan.

Scores of people have been involved in drawing up the plan, which includes a detailed set of guidelines for the local authority when considering future development.

About 4,800 people in the Bloxham area will be eligible to vote and have until Tuesday, October 18, to register.
The deadline for the receipt of postal

vote applications for those not able to get to a polling station will be Wednesday, October 19 at 5pm.

If more than 50 per cent of voters in the

parish back the Neighbourhood Plan it will be adopted as part of Cherwell District Council's statutory development plan.

The question that appears on the ballot paper will be "Do you want Cherwell District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Bloxham to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area?".

It comes after an examiner's report into the plan confirmed it was fit to proceed to referendum subject to some small modifications.

Colin Clarke, the district council's lead



Bloxham village

member for planning, said: "Neighbourhood planning is a way for communities to exercise more control.

"The plan is not about preventing development in Bloxham parish, but about allowing people to work proactively with Cherwell to help shape the future of the parish." To register to vote visit www.gov.uk/registertovote



A tour of the Banbury North Signal Box gets under way

Ex student will give science talk

A FORMER Sibford Academy student will speak at the school on Thursday. Leo Huckvale, who attended Sibford from 2001 to 2005, now works at Oxford Nanopore Technologies. His talk, entitled, 'From variable stars to

DNA: How code enables discovery' will be

at the school's Café Scientifique. The Café Scientifique is a series of events hosted by the school in The Hill for students to explore innovative ideas in science and technology in a relaxed setting outside of the classroom. Mr Huckvale's talk will be open for the general public to attend.

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Plans are on track to save signal box

Much of building set to be salvaged, with some used to make a planned replica

Hannah Somerville hannah.somerville@nqo.com

SALVAGE plans to ensure the legacy of a piece of Banbury's heritage are taking shape before the Banbury North Signal Box is finally taken apart.

A total of 3,000 visitors were shown around the building over eight weeks before it is disman-tled by Network Rail in the coming weeks as part of rail net-

work upgrades.
But the signal box's unprecedented popularity has led to a last-minute deal thrashed out by local campaigners, Network Rail, Siemens and various heritage partners.

If all goes to plan a treasure trove of materials and equip-ment from the site will be



Rob Kinchin-Smith

turned over to campaigners to be used in projects elsewhere.

Rob Kinchin-Smith, a spokes-man for the campaign to save the site and chairman of Ban-bury Civic Society, said: "The plan is that the Banbury North recovery project becomes the template for a new national Network Rail strategy for the recovery of heritage signalling materials for heritage use.

Among the items to be spared demolition are the lever frame and interlocking relays, an illuminated diagram, Great Western Railway shelves and cupboards, windows, doors, and the internal toilet and lobby.

Structural woodwork will also be reclaimed.

De reciaimed.

The material will be used for the restoration of the Princes Risborough North Box in Buckinghamshire as well as a planned replica of Banbury North North.

Because of the 'live' rail environment, all dismantling work will be carried out by a Siemens engineering team, with the project paid for entirely by Network Rail, including the purchase of shipping and storage containers. Heritage partners will need to make up the cost of trans-

port, crates and racking.
Mr Kinchin-Smith added: "After a lifetime of keeping our trains safe and generating so much interest and goodwill, it will be a great shame to look at the empty space where Banbury North Box used to be.





The demolition gets under way; right, Banbury South signal box, which was demolished in July

Commuters face misery as blaze leads to delays

Major rush-hour chaos after cable fire leads to cancellation of trains

Peter Grant pgrant@nqo.com

RAIL passengers in Oxfordshire faced major disrup-tion on Tuesday after trains heading to London Marylebone were cancelled following a cable fire.

Commuters were warned that the problems could continue for another day after a blaze broke out at 4am between Marylebone and Neasden junction, destroying data and power cables and

disabling all the signalling.
Engineers worked overnight
to repair the cabling, but a
spokesman for Network Rail has warned the disruption could last at least 24 hours.

Trains from Banbury and Bicester North were affected, as

well as rail services from Oxford Parkway.

Martin Ball, area director for Network Rail, added: "Engineers will make the necessary repairs as soon as they are able to do so.

"I know how frustrating incidents like this are for travelling customers, who are at the front of our mind as we seek to fix this problem."

Passengers expressed their frustration at the delays, including Kevin Tomes, who said in the end he abandoned his jour-

He added that he was lucky he could work from home. He said: "Need to get to Luton,

will be a challenge.
"I really can't hide contempt for railway in this country."
Commuters vented their frus-

tration on social media as they are told their journeys would be affected.

Andrew Gee tweeted: "Trying to get to London on @chiltern-railway? Don't bother. Trains stopping at Ruislip. Waited for 1hr for train to arrive. Compensation?

A Chiltern Railways spokesman said: "The fire has caused damage to signalling cables and a major fault in the signalling system.
"Unfortunately we are unable

to run any services into London any further than West Ruislip." He added that Network Rail



The fire in cabling that caused huge delays

has told the company that the repairs needed to be completed in an "awkward location" and disruption was expected for the rest of the day.

At 8am Network Rail engineers were waiting for firefighters to finish damping down the blaze so they could get on the viaduct to begin repairs.

A statement on the Chiltern Railways website said: "Due to a cable fire between Neasden and West Hampstead services in and out of London will be severely

disrupted. Passengers travelling from the West Midlands should use alternative services where possible.

"Where no alternative route is available customers are advised to delay their journey or avoid

travelling today if possible."
As of Tuesday, tickets were being accepted on the West Coast Main Line into London Euston on Virgin Trains and London Midland and into London Paddington with Great Western

Man, 26, cleared of sex offence

A MAN who communicated with paedophile hunters who were posing as a schoolgirl has been acquitted of a sex offence

Simon Bebbington denied attempting to incite a child to sexual activity between January

20 and February 10.
Jurors cleared the 26-year-old, of Portway, Banbury, of the charge at Oxford Crown Court following a two-day trial.

During the trial, jurors were told John Stokes, of the organisation Letzgo Hunting, created a fake

profile, pretending to be a schoolgirl called Amy Johnson on social media site Tagged.

Prosecutor Neil King claimed Bebbington contacted the "girl", making sexual advances and believing he was talking to a child. But the defendant, who was assisted in the dock by an intermediary, told jurors he meant nothing by sexual messages he sent online, claiming it was not "for real".

Bebbington continued to deny he was trying to "encourage" the

"girl" to engage in any sexual activity, telling the jury he knew it was wrong. The defendant said at one point he believed the schoolgirl was between 16 and 17, revealing soon after he knew she was 13 but continued talking to her as part of a "fantasy" in his

During cross-examination, Mr King asked: "Why did you keep messaging a 13-year-old about

The defendant replied: "I don't know, it was only a fantasy.

Scales of justice

county recently:
MATTHEW FELTHAM, 26, of Bretch Hill,

Banbury, admitted assaulting Jade Feltham in Pascali Place, Banbury, on July 30. Also admitted assaulting James Messenger by beating him in Pascali Place, Banbury, on the same date. Fined £250 and made subject to a restraining order. Ordered to pay £100 compensation, a £25 victim surcharge and £500 costs.

ADRIAN FANNON, 38, of Evenlode, Banbury,

admitted stealing foodstuffs worth £40 from Co-op, Banbury, on July 13. Handed a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £40 compensation and a £20 victim surcharge.

JUSTIN SMITHWICK, 42, of Oxford Road, Bodicote, admitted using threatening or abusive words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress in White Lion Walk, Banbury, on September 9. Handed a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £30 victim surcharge.

DANIEL GUNTER, 18, of Beaulieu Close, Banbury, admitted damaging a Lexus car in Banbury on June 18. Ordered to pay £500 sation and £85 costs.

ADRIAN JEFFERIES, 26, of Hearthway, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis, a Class B drug, in Banbury on June 11. Given a six-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

PIOTR GORECKI, 41, of West Street, Banbury, was convicted of driving on a public road, namely Banbury Road, Bicester, without a licence, insurance or an MOT certificate on March 14. Fined £325 and banned from driving

DONNA COWLEY, 28, of Portland Road, Milcombe, admitted failing to make her children attend school between March 24 and June 20. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge and £100

MICHAEL FRENCH, 28, of Howard Road Banbury, admitted assaulting Natasha Webb by beating her in Sandford Green, Banbury, on August 24. Also admitted assaulting Natasha Webb between August 1 and August 28. Handed a 12-month conditional discharge with a £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

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6

Pub sign donated to keep memory of admiral alive

Association accepts gift for archive which recalls how captain stayed as ship sunk

Pete Hughes phughes@ngo.com

THE pub sign which hung outside Banbury boozer the Admiral Holland has been saved for the future.

Banbury fireman Darran Gough helped donate the sign to the HMS Hood Association, which preserves the memory of the real Admiral Holland and his tragic final ship.

With the help of county councillor Mark Cherry, Mr Gough, of Mold Crescent, got the sign off the front of the closed pub earlier this year.

of the closed pub earlier this year.

Last month they presented it to the HMS Hood Association in a ceremony at the Severn Valley Railway, which runs the 50 031Hood train, also named after the Admiral's ship.

Association secretary Jackie Miller said they were "delighted" with the gift and it would make a valuable addition to their archives.

Vice Admiral Lancelot Ernest Holland was born in Middleton Cheney in 1887.

He served in the Royal Navy for 38 years and died on board the



From left, Rear Admiral Philip Wilcocks, Jackie Miller of the HMS Hood Association; Darran Gough and county councillor Mark Cherry

HMS Hood. The ship was sunk in the Denmark Strait by the Bismark in 1941. More than 1,400 men died when the Hood was sunk, but Admiral Holland was reported by seaman Ted Briggs, one of only three survivors of the Hood, to have "sat in his chair making no attempt to escape the sinking vessel".

Two decades later, when Banbury's Bretch Hill estate was built in the 1960s, local brewery Hunt Edmunds had relations of Admiral Holland on the board and it was agreed to name the estate's flagship pub in his honour. The pub finally closed in Decem-

The pub finally closed in December 2015 after half a century.

Mr Gough then came up with the idea of giving the sign to the HMS Hood Association.

Just to complicate matters, Mr

Gough has another link to the HMS Hood. He is a member of the national Fifty Fund, a group of rail enthusiasts who got together more than 25 years ago to buy trains from British Rail as they were being sold off.

Specifically they wanted to save the class 50 diesel locomotives, built in the 1960s and 70s and all named after Royal Naval ships.

Among them is the 50 031 Hood, dedicated to Admiral Holland's famous ship. The group initially kept the Hood on the Watercress Line in Hampshire but recently moved it to the new Fifty Fund headquarters on the Severn Valley Line.

the New Fitty Fund headquarters on the Severn Valley Line.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the building of HMS Hood and the 75th anniversary of its sinking, so when the Fifty Fund moved the 50 031 Hood up to Bridgnorth Station on the Severn Valley Line they rededicated the train to the HMS Hood Association.

And so, when Mr Gough and Mr Cherry came to hand over the pub sign from the former Banbury boozer to the HMS Hood Association last month, they chose to hold their ceremony right next to the 50 031 Hood at Bridgnorth Station.

Mr Gough is hoping the new housing estate proposed for the site of the old Admiral Holland will also include a tribute to the great man and his ship.

Helping hand with careers

PUPILS at Banbury Academy were given a helping hand towards the next stage in their education with the school's first 'skills for future success' day.

day.
Year 13 pupils spent last Friday
honing skills such as writing a
personal statement and preparing a
CV.

The school invited eight professionals from different backgrounds to a networking lunch where students were required to practice professional behaviour by introducing themselves, discussing their future plans and asking questions about career choices.

The students also took part in rigorous mock interviews during the afternoon.

Principal Sylvia Thomas said: "What an exciting day Friday was.

"It enabled students to discuss their future plans and actively work towards them with the support of experts in our community.

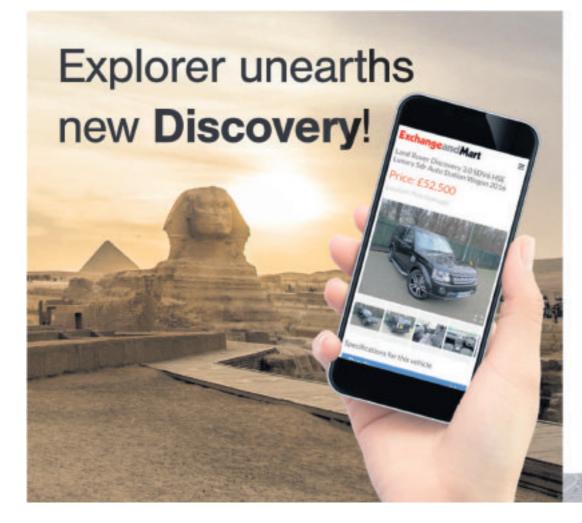
"We are incredibly grateful for the support received."

Banbury Sound managing director Paul Angus was one of the professionals who attended. He said: "You have some fine young people in the student body.

"I really enjoyed meeting all of the students and I was so impressed by them and their mature attitudes and behaviour."

Year 13 pupil Will Pascoe said: "Friday taught me how to write the perfect personal statement. "As well as this, the mock interviews

"As well as this, the mock interviews with an expert in the field of my future career has made me feel much more prepared and confident."





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Classrooms and amphitheatre plans agreed

AN AMPHITHEATRE and a series of new teaching blocks are to be constructed at one of the oldest girls' schools in Britain.

Pupils at Tudor Hall School, an independent day and boarding school between Banbury and Bloxham, will have 12 new classrooms and an al fresco theatre.

Plans were approved last week by Cherwell District Council's planning committee.

The new classrooms will be

spread over two floors with a glazed link to an existing block

An existing teaching block dating back to the 1970s will also be demolished, with several access points linking the new building to other parts of the school.

The hard-landscaped outdoor amphitheatre will sit near the school's Grade II-listed buildings. It is mostly surrounded by foliage and the nearest residential homes are some distance away.

Colin Clarke, district council lead

member for planning, said: "Tudor Hall is one of the oldest girls' boarding schools in the UK and is built on an historic site.

"The school has grown recently and we are pleased to grant permission for a development that replaces an outmoded 1970s structure with a new set of classrooms more sympathetic to the school's setting and heritage.

"The amphitheatre will provide an excellent setting for activities such as outdoor theatre."



Colin Clarke

Rescue of children's centres at risk again



Protesters marching through Oxford in February

Campaigners fear cost of rent will scupper their plan to run the services

Callum Keown

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CASH set aside to save "vital" services could end up going back into county council coffers amid fears communities may be charged up to £10,000 to rent children's centres.

A £1m fund was set up by Oxfordshire County Council for groups to run children's centres once it withdraws funding in April.

But council bosses have refused to reveal how much rent they would charge for the use of individual children's centres, sparking fears it could become impossible to continue services for children and young families.

More than 140 people from across Oxfordshire attended a meeting at the Kassam Stadium last Tuesday to ask questions about the million-pound fund, where it was revealed that the council would be charging rent.

Save Our Children's Cen-

Save Our Children's Centres campaigner Jill Huish said it could put an end to communities running their own children's centres.

own children's centres.
The mother of two said:
"Everyone asked the same
question. Rent along with
staff will be the biggest costs
and the fact we can't get an
answer doesn't look positive.

"The transition fund always seemed like the crumbs we were being given from central government and the council, but now it seems the council wants those crumbs

She added: "One person summed it up best by saying they are giving with one hand and taking away with the other."

Town councils, parish councils and churches have been working together to draw up business plans – due to be submitted next month – to secure up to £30,000 of the money.

But county councillor Richard Webber said that was "impossible" without knowing how much rent they would be charged.

was "impossible" without knowing how much rent they would be charged.

He said: "I'm very concerned. The transition fund is not necessarily the main problem – the key is rent. Once they pay off the rent there won't be much left to actually run the centres."

From April, the county council will stop funding 31 of 44 children's centres and two of seven early intervention hubs.

Communities have been encouraged to work together to take over services that could be lost, with Bishop Colin Fletcher personally contacting individual churches to help

But bids for the council's emergency fund, as well as optimism, have halted over the question of rent.

County councillor Mark Gray, who helps run the Cholsey children's centre, said it may not be able to continue if the council charged rent.

He said: "It's a vital service. It costs around £23,000 a year to run and I think we could manage that with grants, fundraising and volunteering.
"But if we were charged

£10,000 on top of that to rent the building I don't think we would able to do it."

County council spokesman Paul Smith said: "Naturally, at this early stage, there are issues that need to be worked through regarding every single proposal and we look forward to progressing these in the coming weeks and months.

"That includes the issue of rents."

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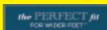


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Feel sociable? Dogs need you

Charity is desperate to find more volunteers who can help 'socialise' its puppies

Anna Hopkins

news@nqo.com

COULD you give up a bit of time to help look after any of these cute pups?

Charity Dogs for Good is desperate for volunteers to help socialise their dogs.

The organisation, based at the Frances Hay Centre in Banbury and registered as a charity in 1988, helps disabled people by training assistance dogs.

It has helped hundreds of families by giving them the highly trained animals.

But it needs people to come forward to help train even more.

Volunteer Kevin MacIver is a member of the Banbury group and said: "Without a doubt, helping to prepare a pup to become an assistance dog is one of the best things that I've ever done.

"It's hard work, but great fun and I've made so many friends through the pups I've cared for.

'When you see your pup go on to help someone, it's just a fantastic feeling to know you've played a small part in making that happen. I would recommend it to anyone."
The group showed off some of

the puppies at Sainsbury's in Ox-ford Road, Banbury, on Monday. It is looking for people who can



care for dogs from about eight weeks old until they are aged about 16

The job of the "puppy socialisers" is to expose the pups to basic obedi-ence training and introduce them to diverse environments such as shop-ping centres, cafes, hospitals and public transportation.

Anyone interested in volunteering

is invited to the same Sainsbury's again on Monday, where they will have the opportunity to speak with current puppy socialisers and staff from Dogs for Good.

More information can be found at the openior to the control of the control o

the organisation's website at www.dogsforgood.org, and interested applicants should apply online by October 14. PUPPY socialisers are required to meet

the following criteria:
Have a fully-fenced safe and secure garden; be away from the puppy for no more than two hours (in the first few weeks) and four hours (for the remaining time you have the puppy) per day; have no more than two existing pet dogs; drive, or have access to someone at all



Below, Sue Mellors, Ken MacIver Helen Townsend and Gill Wilkins

times who can drive you and the puppy; support train the puppy in the basics, i.e. house training, obedience and walking on the lead; spend time every day on activities to socialise the puppy; attend monthly puppy classes and allow home visits from a member of the training team; give the puppy regular contact with children, other dogs and cats.

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All aboard for thrilling ride

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN (15. 112 mins) Thriller/Romance/Action. **Emily Blunt, Haley Bennett.** Rebecca Ferguson, Justin Theroux, Luke Evans, Edgar Ramirez, Allison Janney, Laura Prepon. Director: Tate Taylor PUBLISHED last year, Zimbabwean-born author Paula Hawkins' novel *The Girl On The* Train has gone on to become a literary sensation, selling in excess of 11 million copies

worldwide. As with Gone Girl, another taut thriller with a gasp-out-loud narrative twist, Hollywood came

a-knocking. Tate Taylor, director of the Oscar-winning civil rights drama *The Help*, was duly hired to shunt the book's setting from London to New York for this glossy film adaptation

Erin Cressida Wilson's assured script retains a similar structure to the book, exploring tangled themes of motherhood, revenge and betrayal through the eyes of three women, who are unwittingly trapped in cycles of violence.

Using on-screen title cards to chart the fractured chronology, the film shifts perspectives between these flawed yet resourceful protagonists, while attempting to pull the wool over our eves.

It's an entertaining though not

exactly pulse-quickening ride. Rachel Watson (Emily Blunt) has self-imploded after going through an acrimonious divorce from her cheating husband, Tom (Justin Theroux).

When she wakes from her drunken stupors, Rachel has alarming gaps in her memory and, on one occasion, she is covered in bruises and blood

As a result of her intoxication, Rachel loses her job at a PR firm, which she conceals from her roommate Cathy (Laura Prepon) by taking her usual train each morning and sitting in the park with a bottle of

The journey takes her past her old house where Tom is now happily settled with his mistress Anna (Rebecca Ferguson) and their baby

The tracks also pass by the residence of neighbours Scott (Luke Evans) and Megan

Hipwell (Haley Bennett), and Rachel fantasizes about the couple's seemingly perfect relationship. One morning. Rachel stares bleary-eved out of the train window and glimpses Megan in a clinch with another

man. Megan subsequently vanishes and Detective Sergeant Riley (Allison Janney) becomes interested in Rachel's hazy recollection, especially since the drunkard has no alibi for the hours leading up to Megan's disappearance.

Perhaps psychiatrist Dr Kamal Abdic (Edgar Ramirez) can help Rachel to unlock her subconscious

She will soon realise that some memories are best forgotten. The Girl On The Train is a smart psychological potboiler anchored by a strong

performance from Blunt as a self-destructive woman, who is figuratively going off the rails in her darkest hour. Unreliable narrators are far more tantalizing on the page in Taylor's film, which tip the wink too early to characters' picture chugs briskly down



Emily Blunt as Rachel Watson; inset, Rebecca Ferguson as Anna Watson and Justin Theroux as Tom Watson

than the big screen, and there are a couple of pivotal moments dark ulterior motives and personal ties. Nevertheless, the various dramatic sidings before arriving at a messy final reckoning that satisfies rather than surprises the audience

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Cake Bookworm

Transit by Rachel Cusk is published in hardback by Jonathan Cape, priced £16.99 (ebook £9.99) CANADIAN-born Rachel Cusk's

last novel, Outline, was shortlisted for a slew of awards, including the Baileys Prize for Women's Fiction – and her follow-up. Transit. will undoubtedly draw similar acclaim. It's once again narrated by Cusk's watchful writer Faye, who, following the breakdown of her marriage, has moved to London with her two sons. Her life, much like our own, unfolds in a series of interactions with others – an ex-boyfriend on the school run, the "evil" neighbours in the flat below, the Polish workmen who are gutting her new home, two other writers speaking alongside her at a book festival, the students in her writing class, and finally, her Cotswolds-based cousin, who has swapped one life for another. Fave listens intently to each one, and delves deeper into their psyches through her questions, but we rarely hear much from her, like so many one-way conversations. Cusk has an incredible ability to mine

universal truths from everyday mundanity, as she circles around self and other through childhood, relationships and motherhood, and fate versus choice. Underlying it all is the idea of transit, that our lives are constantly changing and each moment and encounter is simply a passageway to the next. Who Killed Piet Barol? by Richard

Mason is published in hardback by Weidenfeld & Nicholson, priced £14.99 (ebook £7.99)

Richard Mason's picaresque History Of A Pleasure Seeker garnered strong reviews back in 2011, cementing Mason's reputation as a skilled and versatile literary author. This tangential sequel finds Piet and Stacey de Barol frantically prolonging their aristocratic masquerade among the South African white elite of 1914. Near-bankrupt, Piet journeys to the remote Gwadana Forest on a quest for a mythical (and free) 'furniture tree' with which to save reputation and lifestyle, guided by two servants whose Xhosa tribe resides deep inside the forest. As Piet establishes himself, the Xhosa's generational politics offer,

Marquez-like, a faintly magical realist counterpoint to the white obsession with hierarchy, while cultures clash and events unfold with classical inevitability. Razor Girl by Carl Hiaasen is

published in hardback by Sphere, priced £18.99 (ebook

If you like a kooky read or are drawn to crime thrillers, but fancy something a little different, you wouldn't go far wrong by picking up Carl Hiaasen's Razor Girl. Following his previous novels for grown-ups and younger readers, including Bad Monkey and Hoot, he has based the action in the Everglades of south Florida. Merry is the Razor Girl of the title, a conwoman who distracts her marks after lining up a car accident in a very novel way. The mystery all revolves around an abduction gone wrong. Merry takes a Hollywood talent manager called Lane Coolman for a 'ride', which in turn leads to the downfall of a famous reality TV star, Buck, who kills his reputation with some ill-judged anecdotes before disappearing into the night.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Abingdon Crafts and Gifts For Christmas: Medieval Buildings, Abingdon. 10am. £2.50. 07730 034417. Contemporary Street Dance: The Studio, Unit 2, Crown Walk, Bicester. Work towards a public performance in OYAP Trust's upcoming Dance Festival. 5pm. £7. 01869 602560.

Death Cafe: Sainsburys, 289 Oxford Road, Kidlington. A chance to talk about any aspect of death – share your thoughts, listen to others. (Not recommended for the recently bereaved). 6.30pm. Suggested voluntary donation of £3.50. 01235 849427.

Film: Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. 45 Years. 91 mins, UK, 2015, Cert 15. Dealing with the sudden revelation about a former lover of husband Geoff, director Haigh tells the story from the viewpoint of wife Kate. 7.45pm. £6. 01235 521976.

Horizon Lectures – Pen Hadow: Amey Theatre, Park Road, Abingdon. Pen Hadow is one of the world's leading polar explorers; in 2003 he made history and became the first and only person to trek solo without resupply from Canada to the North Pole. 7.30pm. £12.50.

Ramblers walk: Cow Common Car Park, Ewelme. Undulating 7½-mile walk via Swyncombe. Optional picnic lunch at the end. 10am. 01844 214469.

Scarecrow Festival: Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre, Lamborough Hill, Wootton. This year's theme is *The Wizard of Oz.* 10am. £1 per entry. 01235 532816.

Shakespeare in Germany: The Abbey Chapel, Checker Walk, Abingdon. His Impact on the Age of Goethe and Beyond by Dr Ian Roe, Department of German, University of Reading (retd). 7.30pm. 01235 533887.

FRIDAY

Charity Fashion Show: Faringdon Corn Exchange, Gloucester Street, Faringdon. African Children's Fund's Fashion Show. 7pm. £5 in advance or £6 on the door. 01993 705272.

Charity Quiz: The Oxford Belfry, Milton Common. In aid of Helen and Douglas House and the NSPCC. Teams of six-10. 7pm. £10 per person. 01844 277508.

Jewellery Making – Silver
Geometric style: No Two Things, 120
Broadway, Didcot. Workshop spread over
two sessions. 7pm. £60. 01235 511550.
Junior Rock School: The Studio, Unit
2, Crown Walk, Bicester. Final
performance at Bicester's Christmas
Lights Night. 4pm. £7. 01869 602560.
Oktoberfest: The Beacon, Portway,
Wantage. Beer and live music festival.
See beaconwantage.co.uk/oktoberfest.
5pm. Free. 01235 763456.

Richard Dawkins in conversation with Lord John Krebs: Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford. In celebration of 40 years of writing and his 75th birthday, Richard reflects on his life, his books and the relevance of *The Selfish Gene* today. 7pm. £15 / £10. 01865 810000.

Senior Rock School Studio

Sessions: The Studio, Unit 2, Crown Walk, Bicester. Write, record and produce your own music with Rob Gilmore. Share your final recordings at Bicester's Christmas Lights Night. 5.30pm. £7. 01869 602560.

Victory Fashion: Upton House & Gardens, Upton House, Banbury. See examples of women's military uniforms, and discover the stories of those who wore them. 1pm. Normal admission prices apply. 01295 670266.

SATURDAY

#runandtalk: Benson Parish Hall Car Park, Sunnyside, Benson. England Athletics and Mind are encouraging people join a gentle walk/jog around the village green, followed by coffee and chat in the Benson Dell afterwards. See https://www.facebook.com/events/1389366867746707/10am. Free.

Amazing Egyptians: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Kids Club workshop for ages six to 10. Booking essential. 1pm. £7. 01993 810214.

Apple Pressing: The Mix Community Space, Mill Street, Wantage. Bring surplus apples and windfalls and turn them into juice, or try some fresh off the press. £1 a juicing bottle, £2 a bottle to buy. 10am. 07768 767787.

Autumn Book Sale: St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Barrow Road, Shippon. 10am. Free. 01235 526845. Autumn Jumble Sale: Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall, Nuneham Courtenay. 1pm. 50p.

Cherwell Cats Protection
Fundraising Bazaar: Hethe village
Hall, Hardwick Road, Hethe. 2pm. 20p,
children free. 01869 242730.

Chinnor Rugby Club Beer Festival: Chinnor Rugby Club, Kingsey Road, Thame. Live music from 2pm. 12pm. £10 entry (includes free pint). 01844 213735.

From Actearoa to Oxford –
Commemorating the New Zealand
soldiers buried at Botley Cemetery.
Botley Cemetery, North Hinksey Lane,
Oxford. A free event to commemorate the
New Zealanders who were buried at
Botley during WWI. 1.45pm. Free. 01865

Grand Jumble Sale: Steeple Aston Village Hall, Fir Lane, Steeple Aston. 2pm. Free. 01869 340512.

Grand sale of jumble and bric-a-brac: Village Hall, Castle road, Wootton by Woodstock. To raise funds for village primary school. 3pm. 20p. 01993 812423.

National Art and Design Saturday Club: Banbury and Bicester College, Broughton Road, Oxford. A free programme for 14-16 year olds. 10am. 0808 168 6626.

Sewing an Advent Calendar: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. A preprinted panel is included in the price. 7.30pm. £30. 01235 511550.

Steventon Craft Fair: Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon. Steventon Wi's fifth annual fair. 10.30am. Craft Fair: Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove. Wantage & Grove Lions. 10am. Entry free. 01235 223467.

WI Jumble Sale: Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre, Lamborough Hill, Wootton. 2pm. 50p. 01865 736373.

Willow Weaving Hearts: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. 7.30pm. £25. 01235 511550.

SUNDAY

407792

Animal Blessing Service: St John Vianney Church, Charlton Road, Wantage. Bring your animals. Guest speaker Rev Hedley Feast (Radio Oxford). 3pm. Free. 01235 868516.

Blacksmithing: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Make your own ironwork object using a forge and anvil. 45 min sessions with Cobalt Blacksmiths. Over 18s only. See www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson 10am. £20 adult. 01865

Cogges Apple Day: Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. Bring a bag of your own apples and a bottle or flask along for pressing. The Windrush Bowmen will demonstrate archery, weaving and spar using replica weapons Ducklington Morris 1-3pm and Hops & Vines 1-2pm to talk about home brewing and cider making. 11am. £6/£4.50. 01993 772602.

Ramblers walk: Travelodge car park, Wheatley. Eight-mile walk via Waterperry,

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Great Milton and Cuddesdon. Bring a picnic. 10am. 01865 423555.

Vitality Oxford Half Marathon:

Oxford City Centre. Run 13.1 miles around the city. 9.30am. £38 affiliated runners, £40 unaffiliated runners. 0845 308 4004.

Windmill Open: Wheatley Windmill, Windmill Lane, Wheatley. 2pm. Free. 01865 874610.

MONDAY

Digi-Arts Presents Digi'mon Go: The Studio, Unit 2, Crown Walk, Bicester. Explore a range of digital art forms over 10 weeks with professional artists and experts. Final exhibition at Bicester's Christmas Lights Night. 5pm. £7. 01869 602560

Yoga for those that think they can't do yoga: Asthall Manor, Burford. 7.30pm. £12 per class. 01993 831032.

TUESDAY

Art Explorers - Underwater

Adventures: The Studio, Unit 2, Crown Walk, Bicester. Explore a range of arts and crafts activities inspired by Finding Dory and underwater adventures. Final exhibition at Bicester's Christmas Lights Night. 4pm. £7. 01869 602560.

Square Dancing: Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon. Taster evening. 7.30pm. £3. 01235 834778.

WEDNESDAY

Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society: Bradwell Village Hall, Bradwell, Burford. 'Durer, Genius of the Northern Renaissance' by Eveline Eaton. 10.15am. Non-members £8.

Harwell WI: Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell. A talk by Cpt Cyril Mannion entitled 'Human Aspects of Airline Command'. 7.30pm. Free. 01235 835649.

Speedwell Lecture: St Luke's Chapel, Former Radcliffe Infirmary Woodstock Road, Oxford. Dr Sarah Myhill, 'Sustainable medicine and how to live to 100'. 7.30pm. £5. Students free. 01865 552688

The 52nd Light Infantry in 1916 – the Battles of the Somme: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Simon Harris talks about the 52nd Light Infantry (2nd Battalion the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry) engagements which took place in 1916 and includes many incredible personal stories of valour on the Somme Battlefields. 6.45pm. £10. 01993 810213.

Yoga for those that think they can't do yoga: Beaconsfield Hall, Station Road, Shipton under Wychwood. 9.45am. £12 per class. 01993 831032.

9.45am. £12 per class. 01993 831032 Youth Theatre – The BFG Meets Matilda and other Roald Dahl

Characters: The Studio, Unit 2, Crown Walk, Bicester. Explore Roald Dahl classics through a variety of theatre mediums including drama, singing and dance. Final performance at Bicester's Christmas Lights Night. 5.30pm. £7. 01869 602560.

Music

THURSDAY

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's College, Oxford: Moving Music Concerts – Derek Paravicini on piano, with Christine Cairns singing and leading all in song. All are welcome, particularly people living with dementia along with their family, friends and carers. £5, carers free. 11.30am and 2pm. 01865 286660.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: The Mighty Redox. All original psycho-eclectic rock. 9pm. Downstairs bar Free

The Cock Inn, Combe: Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano. 8-11pm. Free.

Joe's Bar & Grill, 260 Banbury Road, Oxford: Sax & Honey. Latin jazz and soul grooves. 8pm. Free.

FRIDAY

Banbury Town Hall and other town centre venues, Banbury: Banbury: Banbury: Folk Festival and Hobby Horse Festival. Weekend festival with hobby horses and dance sides and a procession on Saturday led by Steamchicken Jazz Band. See banburyfolkfestival.co.uk. Day tickets from £21, weekend inc. camping £57. 01295 709881.

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street,, Oxford: Flamenco guitar music and singing with Marcos. £15 (£13 concs). 8.15am. 01865 248189.

Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: Vangoffey. In support of his new album *Take Your Jacket Off & Get In To* It. £10 adv. 8pm. 01865 311775.

The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Oxford Folk Club theme night. £2. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: UK:ID, Smiley & The Underclass, Cherokee and Charms Against the Evil Eye. 8pm. £5.

SATURDAY

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: L'Église Parisienne. French church music sung by the City of Oxford Choir. £12 (concs £10, under 18s £8). 7.30pm. 01865 305305.

Marston Royal British Legion, Hadow Road, Marston: Sapphires. 8pm. Free. 01865 243991.

St Helen's Church, West St Helen's Street, Abingdon: Abingdon Town Band. £10 including a drink. 7.30pm. 01235 200350.

St Michael's Church, Park Road, Abingdon: Pandemonium. Launching the church's celebration of its 150th anniversary year. Music and barn dancing. £10; £9 concs; £5 16 and under. 7pm. 01235 521929.

The Bell Bicester, Sheep Street, Bicester: Cherokii, Beard of Destiny and Cosmosis. 7pm. Free. 07393 317177. White Hart, Godstow Road,

Wolvercote: Pete Mccray. Soul and reggae. Free. 9:00pm. 01865 511978. The Roastery, Magdalen Road, Cowley: All Tamara's Parties #29. A night of acoustic sets from Death of the

Maiden and more, 8pm, £6.

Kennington Village Hall, Kennington Road, Oxford: Ceilidh with Monty's Maggot. 7.30-11.30pm. £10

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: From the Jam – the As and Bs. 6.30pm. £25.30.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Meilyr Jones. Former Race Horses frontman. 7pm. £9 adv, MOTD. The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Peerless Pirates, Callow Saints, Mighty Redox, Vienna Ditto, Osprey. 8pm. £5.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Slam Cartel, Molotov Sexbomb, Raised By Hypocrites. Metal/rock. 7pm. £7.

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton

Street, Oxford: Willie & The Bandits.
7.30pm. £8 adv.

SUNDAY

St Edburg's Church, Church Street, Bicester: Paddington's First Concert. Trinity Camerata's annual family concert has a bear and train theme. With actress Lynn Farleigh. 210. children free. 3.45pm.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Folly & The Hunter. Canadian folkrockers. 7pm. £7 adv, MOTD.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Joe Buck Yourself, Trauma UK, Beaver Fuel. Metal/rock. 8pm. £5.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Les Clochards, Beard Of Destiny, Purple May, Mark Bosley, Laima Bite. 2pm. Downstairs bar. Free.

MONDAY

Nettlebed Village Club, High Street, Nettlebed: Faustus. Nettlebed Folk Club. £13.50 adv. 8pm. 01628 636620. West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford: Roger Jackson. Sing folk carols from the 1800's in harmony. £5. 7.30pm.

TUESDAY

James Street Tavern, 47-48 James Street, Oxford: The Spark Side Of The Moon. Open mic night. 8.30pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY

The Talkhouse, Wheatley Road, Stanton St John: Jazz with Lily Dior, Tim Dawes, Tim Lapthorn and Nathan Allen. 8pm. Free. 01865 351654. New Theatre, 2 George Street, Oxford: Christy Moore. One of Ireland's greatest living musicians. 7pm. £36.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Last Great Dreamers, Black Bullets. Glam-tinged power pop. 7.30pm.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Oct 8, Operation Crucible. Set against the backdrop of the Sheffield Blitz. 7.30pm. £10 (£8). 01865 305305.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Oct 8, Ian Moore, Asher Treleavan, Jake Lambert and Simon Bligh 715pm £14 50 .0871 472 .04007

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont
Street, Oxford: Until Oct 7, Things I
Know to be True. Telling the story of a
family and marriage through the eyes of
four grown siblings. Various times.
£11.50-£27. Oct 6, Wrecking Ball.
7.30pm. £12/£10. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Oct 7-8, Sleeping Beauty. English Youth Ballet. 7.30pm. £16.65-£27.65 plus £4 transaction fee. Oct 9, Whitney – Queen of the Night. Rebecca Freckleton as Whitney Houston. 7.30pm. £22.90-£27.90 plus £2.85 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Oxford: Oct 7, Macbeth: Blood Will Have Blood. Macbeth re-invented for nine to 13 years-olds. 1pm. £8. 01865 319450.

Templar Shopping Centre, 129
Pound Way Cowley: Oct 8, Sprung.
Funny show involving a sofa, dancers
and a trombone player wearing a pink
tutu. 11m, 1pm and 3pm. Free. 01865
305305

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Oct 6, The Woodlanders. By Thomas Hardy. 7.45pm. £16 (£13). 01608 642350. Cornerstone, Station Road, Didcot: Oct 6, Omid Djalili: Schmuck For A Night. 8pm. £25, £22.50 (concs), £20 (members). Oct 8, Hal Cruttenden: Straight Outta Cruttenden. 8pm. £16.50 (£15). 01235 515144.

CakeSport banburycake.co.uk/sport

Banbury's Cup dream is over

Ford's men knocked out by late Wealdstone winner

BANBURY United's hopes of making the fourth qualifying round of the Emirates FA Cup were cruelly ended by a late goal in a 2-1 defeat at Wealdstone. Sahr Kabba's 88th-minute win-

ner saved the Vanarama National League South's sides blushes after Puritans striker Ricky Johnson had cancelled out Tom Hamblin's opener

It denied Mike Ford's Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division side their first appearance in the fourth qualifying draw since 1980. Hosts Wealdstone started the

brighter and took the lead on 11 minutes when Hamblin headed home Matt Whichelow's cross.

The Puritans grew into the

FOOTBALL

game and Oxford United loanee George Jeacock saw a shot saved by Jonathan North, before firing another effort over.

Wealdstone dominated the lat-ter stages of the half and visiting goalkeeper Jack Harding kept out Ricky Wellard's effort, before the same player headed over from a corner.
Elliott Benyon then had a great

chance to double the home side's lead, but shot wide.

Banbury improved after the break and levelled on 57 minutes. A free-kick was pumped deep

into the box and although Johnson saw his header saved by North, the striker was on hand to fire home on the rebound.

Banbury began looking more dangerous as the tie opened up, but it was the home side who found the all-important winner with two minutes to go.
Wealdstone countered and Be-

nyon's cross from the right was slotted home by substitute Kab-ba from six yards out.

There was still time for Banbury to equalise, but Johnson fired just wide.

Banbury bid to bounce back on Saturday when they return to league action at home to Big-

to league action at nome to Big-gleswade Town.

Banbury Utd: Harding, Gunn, White, Nash, Fawke, McEachran, Blackstock (Westbrook HT), Self, Johnson, Jeacock (Browne 82), McDonagh (Janes 58).

Subs not used: Bell, Rimmer.

Attendance: 457.



Ricky Johnson equalised for Banbury, but a late winner ended their FA Cup run

Bulls beaten by Newbury

RUGBY UNION

BANBURY put in a battling display, but lost 28-20 to second-placed Newbury Blues at Bodicote Park in South West 1 East.

Despite conceding an early try, the Bulls led 10-7 at the break. thanks to Sam Stoop's score.

Stand-in skipper Ed Phillips added the extras, before slotting a

penalty.

Another three points from the boot of Phillips extended their advantage in the second half.

But Bulls failed to gather from the resulting kick-off and Blues made them pay, taking full advantage with a converted score.

Two more tries helped the visitors into a 28-13 lead, but they had two men sent to the sin-bin

Banbury made them pay, with Cash Chilvers crossing and Phillips converting, but there was no time left to gain a bonus point.

Bulls bid to arrest a run of three defeats when they travel to thirdplaced Old Centralians on Saturday.

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From left, Oliver Novakovic, Barratt Homes West Midlands' Construction Director Steve Cartwright, Sajid Javid and Adrian Farr at Longford Park; showhome interiors

'Innovative' build move is praised by Minister

A GOVERNMENT Minister has praised "innovative" methods at a new housing development in Banbury.

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid visited Barratt Homes' Longford Park. Barratt Homes West Midlands managing director Adrian Farr and technical and innovations director Oliver Novakovic, took Mr Javid on a tour of the site off Oxford Road.

The pair showed the Minister how

Gill Oliver goliver@ngo.com

the firm is trialling a number of offsite construction methods.

These include the use of largeformat concrete blocks to build 88 homes at the site.

The system uses blocks 15 times bigger than traditional ones, with an

integrated floor, wall and roof.

Mr Javid said: "This Government

has set out the most ambitious housing programme in a generation.

"We are doubling the housing budget with the ambition to deliver one million more homes."

He added: "That's why it's great to be visiting Barratt today and to be given an insight into the benefits of offsite construction on the ground.

"This innovative approach to housebuilding is a really exciting initiative which is significantly increasing the level and rate of

construction, making home ownership possible for more and more people."

Barratt Developments built 50 per cent more new homes around the UK during the past five years, including 17,000 last year and hopes new methods will allow it to boost output.

Mr Farr said: "We have been investing in offsite construction for some time now and trialling new building methods like these large format blocks at sites like Longford Park. These new building methods have the potential to revolutionise housing construction but it's a careful process to ensure that quality doesn't

Mr Novakovic added: "Our objective is to enable our divisions to have additional options to support their drive to maintain our high standards of quality whilst delivering the high volumes of homes.

Longford Park includes one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom homes

Contact property writer Gill Oliver with your stories on 01865 425475 or email propertyedit@ngo.com









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OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY THE 15TH OCTOBER AT 2PM THIS WELL PRESENTED LATE VICTORIAN THREE BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE LOCATED CLOSE TO THE TOWN CENTRE OF BANBURY. This property is set across three floors and consists of Two reception rooms with feature fireplaces, kitchen with double doors to a rear enclosed patio area, downstairs wc/wet room with shower and a cellar. To the first floor there are two double bedrooms and on the second floor a further double bedroom and large family bathroom. Offered with no onward chain it makes an ideal buy for either first time buyers or investors. The home has bags of character with high ceilings and wooden flooring throughout. Also only a short walk ten minute walk to the train station. Viewing Highly Offered with no onward chain.

Guide Price £200,000

THREE BEDROOM END OF TERRACE PROPERTY ON EDINBURGH WAY WITH NO ONWARD CHAIN. PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED Comprising on the ground floor of entrance hall, Lounge, Large Kitchen/diner, storage cupboard/pantry, on the first floor there are two good size double Bedrooms, 1 single bedroom and a newly refurbished bathroom equipped with a large walk in shower and under floor heating. Further benefits include gas central heating and double glazing. Outside there is a large rear garden and to the front of the property there is a private drive with parking for 2 cars and on street parking. Viewing highly recommended. EPC rating: C











Guide Price £259,950

WELL PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE WITH A GARAGE. This property consists of large entrance hall, open plan lounge diner with patio doors to rear enclosed garden and fitted kitchen. To the first floor there are two double bedrooms, single bedroom and a family bathroom. This home is spacious and offered with no onward chain which makes it an ideal buy for either first time buyers or investors. The property also benefits from solar panels on the roof which Reduces the cost of energy bills.

Offers Over £220,000

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY THE 15TH OF OCTOBER AT 12PM A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED VICTORIAN TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME LOCATED CLOSE TO BANBURY TOWN CENTRE. Featuring two double bedrooms and two downstairs reception rooms this ideal family home or investment property also benefits from a fitted kitchen with pantry, downstairs WC, large family bathroom, conservatory and rear garden. The property is also fully double glazed and has gas central heating. The town of Banbury is conveniently located only 2 miles from Junction 11 of the M40 meaning larger cities are within easy reach. There are regular trains to London Marylebone and Birmingham New Street, and some very attractive countryside around and places of historical interest are within easy reach.

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Offers Over £180,000

Guide Price £360,000

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Asking Price £170,000

Offers In The Region Of £300,000

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WHEN the word "bespoke" is used to describe a kitchen, it refers to one that's been designed for and by you and handmade from scratch, maximising the space available. A truly bespoke kitchen will make the most of the architectural space available.

Added to that, you can also have whatever specifications you want (can afford) – a bespoke kitchen is built around you rather than you having to adapt your ideas to an off-the-shelf solution which is a generic, "one size fits all" approach where compromises invariably have to be made.

A key benefit of a kitchen designed around you is that you can specify any non-standard dimension or detail you desire. Say if you have sloping ceilings, you can ask for bespoke storage to fit the non-standard space.

There's a huge range of finishes, materials, colours, fittings and styles to choose from, therefore you want a company with a proven reputation.

Get a personal recommendation

NOTHING is better than hearing about the company through word of mouth. Ask family and friends for their experiences and speak to companies who provide a bespoke service in your area. You'll want to know whether they stick to schedule and how well they are able to turn the customer's visions into reality.

...or research the company well

IF you can't get a recommendation choose an established company with a reputation for hand-crafted joinery – the foundation of your new kitchen – and one that is prepared to listen. Ask the kitchen company if you can view some of their previous projects; they are usually more than happy to arrange this.

Use the opportunity not only to look at the quality of the fitting, but to quiz the homeowner. How well does the company respond to problems and what is their aftercare service like? Do the kitchen fitters make much mess and do they provide a skip?

Prepare before your first meeting

BEFORE your first meeting with a designer, go online to help you pinpoint the style you want. Start building a mood board using a website such as Pinterest and soon you'll see certain recurring themes.

These will be the foundation for your new kitchen. Take your wish-list of appliances and any inspirations you have.

You may not know exactly what you want, but it is a great starting point for discussion. If you have a floor-plan of the room then that will be helpful too.

A good designer will be able to interpret your mood board and establish what is important to you. Ask for a meeting at your home so the designer can get to know your style and better understand the brief.



kitchen confidential

- Choose the granite colour before the paint colour, it's a much easier way around in the long run.
- Take samples home to look at them in the light of the room. try to hold them the way they will really be, so the granite would be horizontal and the unit sample colour board be vertical, try to have your flooring sample on site at the same time if possible.
- The cost: A bespoke kitchen can start at anything from around £18,000 to £35,000 and can obviously go up dramatically, into the hundreds of thousands, if you have a long list of very specific requirements and expensive finishes.

Palm tree candle holder,

Debenhams, £25

Have a clear budget in mind at the outset. You can be frank and upfront about it.

Thursday, October 6, 2016

Motors - first for new cars

New Car Launch Model Of The Week

by Jonathan Crouch



Relaxing with a Mokka makes sense







VAUXHALL'S Mokka X is the first model to introduce the 'X' segment identifier for future Vauxhall SUV and crossover vehicles. As before it's versatile, capable and practical, plus now, it's better looking and comes with upgraded connectivity, a nicer cabin and more efficient, quieter diesel engines.

Background
Vauxhall's Mokka has done good
business for the Griffin brand in its growing compact Crossover seg-ment. Hence the introduction of the revised Mokka X model range we're going to look at here.

The changes aren't too far reaching. There's a smarter front end, plus inside, an upgraded cabin that features Vauxhall's clever 'OnStar' connectivity system. Under the bonnet, the car gets the brand's latest, more efficient, 1.6-litre CDTi 'whisper diesel' engines, plus a pok-ier 1.4-litre petrol unit. A Vauxhall then, that is in every way a car of its time, very much chiming with the new face of a changing brand. Let's try it.

Driving Experience

Mokka X buyers are people likely to be enthusiasts for life rather than for cars. So they may not care that this car isn't quite as sharp and wieldy as a rival Nissan Juke, nor does it have the 'big SUV' polish of a comparable Skoda Yeti. Instead,

there's a potentially pleasing compromise between the two.

Under the bonnet, there are three main engine options, the most affordable, as ever, being the least desirable of the trio, the 2WD-only 115PS petrol 1.6-litre variant which, with only 155Nm of torque, needs to be rowed along a little with the gear lever - a stick that only offers you five speeds. A better bet for petrol people is the 140PS 1.4-litre turbo, now also available with 152PS if you go for a top-spec AWD model with auto transmission.

The most practical engine choice though is the one most buyers will probably select, the 1.6-litre CDTi diesel, now offered with either 110 or 136PS. The pokier version is capable of a top speed of around 117mph and rest to sixty in around 10.3s. You get all the main mechanical choices with this unit - so you can specify your car with 6-speed manual or automatic transmission and with or without 4WD.

Design and Build The Mokka's compact size - it's 4.28m long - places it in the upper part of the compact Crossover seg ment. In other words, in terms of exterior dimensions and cabin space, it's more Skoda Yeti than Nissan Juke - but not quite Nissan Qashqai size. For this improved 'Mokka X' model range, British designer Mark Adams and his team

have tried to create a bolder look. This means a wing-shaped horizon-tal front grille and the dominant, sharp double-wing signature of the LED daytime running lights. At the rear is another double wing signature highlighted in the tail lamps, with LED technology an option. Vibrant new colours such as 'Amber Orange' and 'Lava Red' are also available. On the inside, the Mokka X has a completely new dashboard inspired by the latest Astra.

Market and Model

So, this Mokka X is a small, trendily-styled five-door little SUV/ Crossover isn't it? Well yes. So it'll be priced directly against the other car we tend of think of in this market sector, Nissan's Juke, won't it? Well, no. Vauxhall points out - correctly - that their car is a signifi-cantly larger thing - hence the price span for the range that lies in the £17,500 to £27,000 bracket. To put that into perspective for you, that means you'll be probably be paying a price premium of around £3,000 for this Mokka X over an equivalent Juke. You'll need around £20,000 for the least expensive AWD Mokka X

As well as the extra space, you get more kit than you would on that Nissan. There's a choice of four trim levels, 'Active', 'Design Nav', Elite' and 'Elite Nav'. Standard equipment on the mid-range

'Design Nav' models most will choose is impressive and includes 18" alloy wheels on most models, plus LED daytime running lights front fog lights and silver roof rails on the outside. Inside the cabin. drivers will benefit from an 8-inch touch screen with Vauxhall's IntelliLink Infotainment system, as well as the innovative OnStar personal connectivity and service assistant. 'Elite Nav' is the top-of-the-range trim and adds a full leather interior, heated front seats and steering wheel, plus tinted rear

Cost of Ownership
The 110PS 1.6-litre CDTi diesel is the unit you'd probably ideally want and it returns a very classcompetitive set of stats - 65.7mpg and 105g/km of CO2 - or 68.9mpg and 103g/km in more frugal eco-FLEX guise. Even if you go for the pokier 136PS CDTi powerplant and mate it with AWD, you still get 60.1mpg and 124g/km. The picture's not quite so rosy when it comes to petrol power. The oldest engine in the line-up, the 115PS 1.6-litre petrol unit, shows its age here, returning 41.5mpg on the combined cycle and 155g/km of CO2. Even the 4x4 auto matic version of the 140PS 1.4-litre petrol turbo unit can better this managing 43.5mpg and 150g/km of

SummaryLook clearly though, as we've tried to do here, at what you actually get for what you actually pay and the Mokka X makes fashionable sense. With styling and size almost perfectly pitched, it's practical, well equipped, affordable to run and, in 4x4 form, seasonally capable too. A car with an appeal that builds as your interest in it grows. The kind of car Vauxhall needs to make. For a more fashionable future.

Facts at a glance

CAR: Vauxhall Mokka X PRICES: £17,590 - £26,765 INSURANCE GROUPS: 5E-T1 - 14E-T1
CO2 EMISSIONS: 103-155g/km
PERFORMANCE: [1.4 Turbo]
0-60mph 9.4s / Max Speed 118mph FUEL CONSUMPTION: [1.6 CDTi 110PS ecoFLEX] (combined) 68.9mpg STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: twin front, side and curtain airbags, ESP-plus switchable stability control, Hill Start Assist, Descent Control System, Adaptive Brake Lights WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?: length/width/height mm: 4278/1777/1654

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Your hosts
Phil, Karen
and Jacob look
forward to seeing
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